

REMARKS

In an Office Action dated October 9, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani (U.S. patent no. 5,937,019) in view of Subramanian (U.S. patent no. 6,934,319). The Examiner allowed claims 13-16. The rejections are traversed and reconsideration is hereby respectfully requested.

The applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 13-16.

The Examiner rejected claims 11-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Padovani in view of Subramanian. With respect to claim 11, the Examiner contended that Padovani teaches an apparatus in a communication system comprising a first signal processing block for processing a first received signal according to a first communication standard to produce a first received processed signal (BTS 150 of AMPS, FIGs. 3A and 3B, element 155; col. 9, line 61, to col. 11, line 35) and a second signal processing block for processing a second received signal according to a second communication standard to produce a second received processed signal (BTS 200 of CDMA, FIGs. 3A and 3B; col. 9, line 61, to col. 11, line 35). The Examiner acknowledged that Padovani does not teach a combiner for combining said first and second received processed signal to produce a combined signal, but contended that this is taught by Subramanian (FIG. 2B; col. 8, line 50, to col. 11, line 50). The applicants respectfully disagree.

Padovani teaches a hard handoff between two communication systems. As a hard handoff, the base stations of the two systems are not in simultaneous data communication with the remote unit and it makes no sense to combine the signals received by the base stations of the two systems as these are different, not common, signals. Therefore, the teachings of Padovani may not be properly combined with a teaching of a combiner that combines the first and second received processed signals of claim 1 as nowhere does Padovani teach a receiving, at two base stations of different systems, of a combinable signal.

Furthermore, Subramanian does not teach a combiner. That is, in the sections cited by the Examiner, Subramanian merely teaches a despreader. A despreade

removes the spreading code from a CDMA signal. While the despreader is capable of despreading signals from different systems, it separately inputs and outputs signals of each system. Nowhere does Subramanian teach a combining of two signals received from the two different systems.

Therefore, neither Padovani nor Subramanian, individually or in combination, teach the features of claim 11 of an apparatus that includes a first signal processing block for processing a first received signal according to a first communication standard to produce a first received processed signal, a second signal processing block for processing a second received signal according to a second communication standard to produce a second received processed signal, and a combiner for combining the first and second received processed signal to produce a combined signal. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that claim 11 may now be passed to allowance.

Since claims 12-14 depend upon allowable claim 11, the applicants respectfully request that claims 12-14 may also be passed to allowance.

As the applicants have overcome all substantive objections and rejections given by the Examiner and have complied with all requests properly presented by the Examiner, the applicants contend that this Amendment, with the above discussion, overcomes the Examiner's objections to and rejections of the pending claims. Therefore, the applicants respectfully solicit allowance of the application. If the Examiner is of the opinion that any issues regarding the status of the claims remain after this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned representative to expedite resolution of the matter. Furthermore, please charge any additional fees (including any extension of time fees), if any are due, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,
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